

GRAHAM BIOGRAPHY TO BE REISSUED

BY JOHN HANRAHAN

WASHINGTON

A controversial biography of Washington Post board chairman Katharine Graham, which was pulled off bookstore shelves and shredded by a major publisher seven years ago following objections by the Post, is being reissued by a small local publisher.

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The revised book seems certain to stir the controversy again, because it cites government documents suggesting that Post Executive Editor Benjamin Bradlee, while working as a press attache at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, played a role in what the author terms a CIA "propaganda campaign" against convicted atomic spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in the early 1950s.

Bradlee acknowledged to United Press International that, while working at the embassy, he had written a report to answer French press criticism that the Rosenbergs had been framed, but denied that the CIA had anything to do with his efforts.

Joel Joseph, president of National Press of Bethesda, Md., said the book, "Katharine the Great," by Washington writer Deborah Davis, will be published by his company on May 30, with an initial press run of 10,000. The book was originally published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich in late 1979.

After Bradlee wrote a Harcourt Brace editor a critical letter alleging 39 factual errors pertaining to him, the publisher recalled from bookstores and destroyed all unsold copies of the book. Katharine Graham also complained of inaccuracies in the book in a letter to William Jovanovich, company chairman and president.

The book, with a first printing of 25,000, had already been nominated by the publisher for the American Book Awards and had been accepted as a Literary Guild selection. Davis sued Harcourt Brace for breach of contract, and in 1983 received a \$100,000 out-of-court settlement from the publisher.

One of the key items disputed by Bradlee in the original book was the author's contention that, in his work at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, Bradlee had produced unspecified materials for the CIA. The original book said nothing about the Rosenberg case.

Since then, Davis obtained copies of Justice Department documents on the Rosenberg case under the Freedom of Information Act. Several documents containing references to Bradlee are reproduced in the book.

One memorandum, written by one of the prosecutors on Dec. 13, 1952, said that Bradlee had called him that day to say he had just arrived in New York and that he wanted "to look at the Rosenberg file in order to answer the Communist propaganda about the Rosenberg case in the Paris newspapers."

The memo went on to state that Bradlee "further advised that he was sent here by Robert Thayer, who is the head of the CIA in Paris ... He stated that he was supposed to have been met by a representative of the CIA at the airport but missed connections. He has been trying to get in touch with Allen Dulles but has been unable to do so." Dulles was then CIA deputy director; he became director in February 1953.

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In a letter he wrote to a prosecutor four months later, Bradlee said the use of the prosecutors' files had enabled him to produce "most effective counterpropaganda." His letter does not mention the CIA.

In a telephone interview with UPI, Bradlee said Thayer was indeed the CIA station chief in Paris when Bradlee had been there. Bradlee said he had known Thayer since they both attended St. Mark's School, a preparatory school run by Thayer's father.

Bradlee said he had not worked for or with the CIA. He said neither Thayer nor the CIA were involved in his effort to answer criticisms of the Rosenberg case prosecution.

"That wasn't the sort of thing the CIA was interested in," Bradlee said. "I recommended that I go the United States to get information to answer charges that were appearing in the French press that the Rosenbergs were being railroaded."

Bradlee said there was no arrangement for anyone from the CIA to meet him at the airport, and that he did not even know Allen Dulles. He said he did not know why the various references to the CIA were in the prosecutor's memo.

Davis does not allege that Bradlee was employed by the CIA, but rather that he was working in conjunction with the spy agency on the Rosenberg campaign. In an April 1 letter to the author, Bradlee denied "any role in the CIA's propaganda campaign" and said, "All of the allegations about my associations with people in the CIA are as false today as they were when you wrote them."

Joseph, an attorney and author who started National Press three years ago, said his company has published 25 titles, including translations of European books on Holocaust survivors and the rise of a new anti-Semitism in Europe.

He said he and Davis had "carefully examined" the Post's objections to the original book and had made changes "to make this book as accurate as possible." For example, a reference -- denied by Bradlee -- that former CIA Director Richard Helms and Bradlee were boyhood friends, has been deleted, he said.

Davis, 37, a freelance writer, is currently working under a contract with another publisher, E.P. Dutton, Inc., on a book on collaboration with the enemy.

Webster expected to take CIA reins with quiet efficiency

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The CIA, subject to unusual public scrutiny and with a new leader, is not expected to undergo radical changes under William H. Webster, according to present and former intelligence officials.

Several intelligence officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Webster, a former federal judge who ran the FBI for the past nine years, plans to approach his new job with an impartial "judicial" perspective that they welcome.

Mr. Webster was confirmed as CIA director by the Senate Tuesday, by a 94-1 vote.

One senior FBI official said Mr. Webster will be "coming over light" to the agency's headquarters in Langley, Va. The new director is expected to bring a small staff that includes FBI Special Assistant John B. Hotis, FBI Assistant Director for Public Affairs William Baker, two law clerks and his longtime FBI secretary, the official said.

"He will be depending a lot on the people already over there, especially [CIA deputy director] Bob Gates," the official said. "He doesn't have any strong feelings on the way the agency should be run."

The official said Mr. Webster plans to operate at the CIA in much the same way he approached the FBI in 1978, when the bureau was faced with public and congressional pressure over alleged improper domestic intelligence activities.

"He plans to take a studied look, to be briefed and briefed and briefed again," said the official. "And then he'll make some deliberate moves. But he's not going in with any fixed agenda."

The official said Mr. Webster, who is referred to at the FBI as "the Judge," does not plan to restrict CIA activities, but expects to "keep people accountable" to the often complex executive guidelines and congressional regulations imposed on the agency.

As FBI director, Mr. Webster has been praised by most intelligence officials for his role in building up the FBI's counterespionage cap-

abilities.

Sen. Chic Hecht, Nevada Republican and member of the Intelligence Committee, said in an interview that Mr. Webster's record as FBI chief and his good relations with congressional oversight panels are his best asset and will serve him well as CIA director.

"He has in place a tremendous operations staff over there," Mr. Hecht said. "That will be his true test: if he allows the staff in place to continue carrying on what [former CIA director] Bill Casey built up."

Mr. Casey, who died of cancer this month after resigning May 6, directed a major buildup of the agency's operations capabilities involving "a top group of dedicated and professional young people" posted at CIA stations around the world, Mr. Hecht said.

Witnesses in the Iran-Contra investigation in Congress have closely linked Mr. Casey and a Central American CIA operative to the case, but so far broad agency involvement in the operation has not been uncovered.

One administration official, speaking on condition he not be identified, said morale in most parts of the agency remains high despite the continuing investigations.

The official said Mr. Webster is expected to learn his new job quickly since he has more experience in intelligence than past directors brought in from outside the agency.

However, the Iran-Contra inquiry has affected the morale of some field agents in Central America who feel that "there are more investigators than case officers," he said.

Officials said Mr. Webster's presence at CIA will help to ensure that legal restrictions on agency operations will be strictly enforced.

The Senate Intelligence Committee recently informed the CIA and the National Security Council that the committee plans to conduct spot checks of financial records to ensure that operations conformed to legal guidelines.

Another reform recently put in place by National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci, according to offi-

cials, was to set up a covert action review board, similar to a CIA review board, that will periodically review all such programs.

However, one official said that contrary to some reports describing a one-third cutback in covert action programs, there has been no reduction as a result of the Iran-Contra affair.

Some reports have suggested that Mr. Webster's friendship with former CIA Director Stansfield Turner may signal major policy changes at the agency.

Adm. Turner, CIA director during the Carter administration, brought in a large number of Navy officials to assist him and he dismissed or transferred many of the agency's most experienced operatives.

The official pointed out that while Mr. Webster knows Adm. Turner from their days at Amherst College, Mr. Webster also is close to former CIA Director Richard Helms, an agency stalwart well respected by hard-liners.

One senior CIA operations official, who retired in the late 1970s, described Mr. Webster as independent-minded official who "goes by the book" and thus may have a "tempering affect" on agency covert operations.

"I don't think he'll abandon it as a tool, but he may just wait until he's more comfortable with it," the official said.

He said Mr. Webster could have the greatest impact on developing CIA counterintelligence, which has rebounded in recent years from a decline that began in the late 1970s.

David Atlee Phillips, former CIA Latin America operations chief, said some agency operatives have taken a "wait and see" approach to Mr. Webster because of his lack of experience.

"There's a big difference between handling a really clandestine type of operation as opposed to a partially clandestine type of operation that the FBI is used to running," he said. "People in the operations directorate are wondering if he'll be able to do that."

Model Security Pledged as Spy Inquiry Opens

By NORMAN KEMPSTER,
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Former Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird, presiding over the first meeting of a presidential panel to evaluate security at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, said Wednesday the mistakes that opened the way for Soviet espionage go far beyond Marine guards charged with bartering secrets for sex.

"This is not just a Marine problem. . . it is a national problem and one that we are dealing with in the deliberations of this panel," Laird said. "Our responsibility is to find out what went wrong and how to improve security in the Soviet Union."

Wants 'Model' System

The commission, appointed last month by President Reagan, opened its first meeting to the public to comply with a law requiring presidential panels to hold open meetings unless the members decide there is reason to close them. After about a half hour, the four-member commission voted to go into closed session because of national security concerns and Laird indicated it will not meet again in public until it completes its work in 90 days or less.

Laird said the panel hopes to devise plans for building and staffing a "model" embassy system that would be as impervious as possible

Hollings to Delay Action on Webster

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.) said Wednesday that he would hold up the nomination of FBI Director William H. Webster to be CIA director until Webster assures him that there will be a full investigation of security problems at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

Hollings accused the FBI of not vigorously investigating the State Department in connection with the Marine espionage scandal at the embassy.

"It is apparent that the FBI has no idea of doing anything," Hollings said. "It is apparent that I'm being given the runaround." He said he wanted a full investigation of how the security problems developed.

to penetration by the spies of the host country.

Joining Laird, the first Pentagon chief in the Richard M. Nixon Administration, on the commission were former CIA Director Richard Helms; Gen. John W. Vessey Jr., former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Diego Asencio, a former ambassador to Brazil and Colombia.

Reagan told the panel to report in three months on whether security systems and procedures at the embassy in Moscow were adequate, whether the procedures were properly implemented, and whether information was available that could have warned the staff about security problems.

The panel is only one of a long list of Administration and congressional committees investigating the situation in Moscow following charges that two Marine guards were seduced by women working for the KGB and allowed Soviet spies to roam around the embassy at night.

A State Department commission headed by James R. Schlesinger,

another defense secretary and CIA director in the Nixon Administration, is scheduled to report soon on Soviet efforts to plant electronic listening devices in the \$192-million U.S. Embassy building under construction in Moscow.

The Senate Intelligence Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee have rendered their decision on the new embassy—they have said it should be torn down because the listening devices are so pervasive that the building never will be secure.

Other Inquiries

Congressional inquiries are also being conducted by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board also is investigating the situation. The National Bureau of Standards recently told Congress that the new embassy building needs at least \$1.5-million worth of repairs before it would be safe for occupancy.

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